Magnitude of human smuggling to other countries

337. DR. GYANPRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the magnitude and implications of human smuggling to other countries from India;

(b) whether, while the Ministry have issued licences to 1500 authorised recruitment agents, the number of unauthorized agents is in thousands, who charge lacs and dupe gullible rural people;

(c) whether an estimated 1260 Indians are believed to have died in the process of being transported illegally to foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (c) Since the human smuggling takes place through irregular/ illegal means, no authentic data thereof is maintained.

(b) and (d) There are about 1700 active Recruiting Agents who are in possession of Registration Certificates issued under the Emigration Act, 1983. So far as the activities of unregistered Recruiting Agents are concerned, as and when the complaints against them are received, the Protector of Emigrants/State Police authorities concerned are requested to initiate action against them for violation of the Emigration Act. During 2006 complaints were received against 78 unregistered Recruiting Agents. A number of such illegal agents have been arrested/prosecuted in different States by the local police authorities.

Women's marriage with NRIs

338. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the draft information booklet for guidance of women planning to get married to overseas Indians which was circulated to States in October, 2005, has been revised and Government are exercising on issuing a new information booklet in place of the old one;

(b) if so, the details thereof;